

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JGHUFF:MEM

APPROVED BY EUR :RDVINE

PM/ISP:JGRAHAM

C:JKELLY

S/S:MR. WOODS

H:HNELSON

S:RAHERN

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P 221907Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN PAUL
FINDLEY CONCERNING PRECISION GUIDED WEAPONRY (S/S NO.
7610212)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM VINE, ACTING, THRU SONNENFELDT

1. THE PROBLEM.

CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY HAS SENT YOU AND SONNENFELDT
IDENTIFI"AL LETTERS AND A SHORT STUDY WHICH PROPOSE NEW
EFFORTS WITHIN NATO TO DEVELOP PRECISION GUIDED WEAPONRY.
FINDLEY ARGUES SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT BE EXPLOITED TO THE
ADMINISTRATION'S POLITICAL BENEFIT THIS YEAR SINCE IT
COULD DIRECT ATTENTION AWAY FROM CRITICS' PREOCCUPATION
WITH CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND TOWARDS INNOVATIONS WHICH
COULD IMPROVE THE WEST'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. WE
PROPOSE THAT MCCLOSKEY SIGN THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE, WHICH
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DISCUSSES THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF PRECISION GUIDED

WEAPONRY, BUT AVOIDS COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF FINDLEY'S PROPOSAL.

2. PROPOSED TEXT:

DEAR MR. FINDLEY:

THE SECRETARY AND THE COUNSELOR HAVE ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTERS OF MAY 13 CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF RECENT INNOVATIONS IN PRECISION-GUIDED CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE NATO ALLIANCE.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN THE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS ON THE IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY ON THE MILITARY BALANCE. MANY OF THE POINTS YOU RAISE REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF PRECISION WEAPONRY ARE BROADLY ACCEPTED. SUCH WEAPONS OFFER THE POSSIBILITY OF CHEAPER, LESS COLLATERALLY DESTRUCTIVE, AND MORE EFFECTIVE DEFENSES, THEREBY IMPROVING NATO SECURITY. TO THE DEGREE THAT THAT TECHNOLOGY FAVORS THE DEFENSE OVER THE OFFENSE -- AS IN THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN ANTI-TANK WEAPONS -- SUCH MUNITIONS CAN HELP TO OFFSET SOVIET NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER.

OUR NATO ALLIES FULLY APPRECIATE THESE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES AND LARGE NUMBERS OF PRECISION-GUIDED WEAPONS HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE U.S. AND ALLIED BATTLEFIELD INVENTORY, E.G., TOW, HOT, MILAN, ETC.; OTHERS WILL DO SO LATER THIS DECADE. THE WEST POSSESSES A TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH WEAPONS AND R AND D EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALLIED DEFENSE. STUDIES ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING PRECISION-GUIDED WEAPONRY AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN MANY BODIES, INCLUDING THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP.

THE DEPARTMENT SHARES YOUR CONCERN THAT ANY DEBATE ON DEFENSE ISSUES BE CONDUCTED IN A RESPONSIBLE AND CON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRUCTIVE MANNER WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE AND GENERAL CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S. DEFENSE POSTURE. THIS IS ONE OF THE SECRETARY'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IN THIS ELECTION YEAR.

SINCERELY, ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY

3. RECOMMENDATION.

THAT YOU AUTHORIZE MCCLOSKEY TO SEND THE RESPONSE
PROPOSED.

4. CLEARED: PM:JGRA AM C:JKELLY; EUR:RDVINE H:HNELSON:
S AH-FNE ROBINSON

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